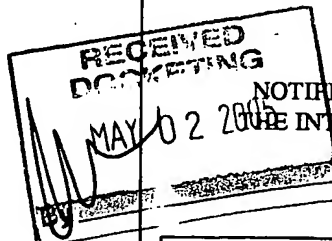


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
DANIEL M. GURFINKEL
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 S. RIVERSIDE PLAZA
22ND FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60606



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NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of Mailing (day/month/year)	
Applicant's or agent's file reference 9191-91160	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below
International application No. PCT/US04/00639	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 January 2004 (12.01.2004)
Applicant SIMON, LEE	

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the international search report.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.

3. ☐ With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

4. Reminders

Shortly after 18 months from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90 bis.1 and 90 bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

Within 19 months from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise the applicant must, within 20 months from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of 30 months (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO internet site.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer Lanna Mai <i>[Signature]</i> Telephone No. (703) 308-2168
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

M

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
DANIEL M. GURFINKEL
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.
120 S. RIVERSIDE PLAZA
22ND FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60606

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT OR THE DECLARATION

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 9191-91160	Date of Mailing (day/month/year) 26 APR 2005
International application No. PCT/US04/00639	International filing date (day/month/year) 12 January 2004 (12.01.2004)
Applicant SIMON, LEE	

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report has been established and is transmitted herewith.

Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:
The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the international application (see Rule 46):

When? The time limit for filing such amendments is normally two months from the date of transmittal of the international search report.

Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34, chemin des Colombettes
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

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3. ☐ With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

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See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer Lanna Mai Telephone No. (703) 308-2168
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 9191-91160	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US04/00639	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 12 January 2004 (12.01.2004)	(Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 10 January 2003 (10.01.2003)
Applicant SIMON, LEE		

This international search report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This international search report consists of a total of 3 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the Report

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:



contained in the international application in written form.



filed together with the international application in computer readable form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.



the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.



the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

2. ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box I).

3. ☐ Unity of invention is lacking (See Box II).

4. With regard to the title,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the abstract,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1



as suggested by the applicant.



because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



because this figure better characterizes the invention.



None of the figures

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/00639

Box III TEXT OF THE ABSTRACT (Continuation of Item 5 of the first sheet)

The technical features mentioned in the abstract do not include a reference sign between parentheses (PCT Rule 8.1(d)).

NEW ABSTRACT

A modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle having an array of connectors (36,42) to accommodate to hold a plurality of different appliance units (35) is provided. The modular reconfigurable appliance unit receptacle comprises a frame (10) for holding various appliance units (35) in different spatial configuration, generally horizontal and vertical, and connectors to quickly connect and/or disconnect the appliance units to the type of power utility necessary, such as gas for a stove, and electricity for a microwave oven. The appliance units (35) are removably attached within the frame (10), and are interchangeable such that they are configurable as desired and can be removed for repair or replacement, with ease. To add to the configurability of the receptacle, the frame (10) permits one or more appliance units (35) in both vertical and horizontal spaces within and on the frame. The appliance units can be modified to change their appearance with removably attachable decorative covers (110), such that interchangeability and modification are made quick, easy and affordable.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/00639

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : F16B 12/00

US CL : 312/111

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 312/111; 312/107, 140, 198, 201, 223.6

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 3,858,091 A (WILKINSON) 31 DECEMBER 1974 (31.12.1974), see abstract.	1-24
Y	US 5,572,984 A (ALDEN ET AL) 12 NOVEMBER 1996 (12.11.1996), columns 2-3.	1-24
P, Y	US 2003/0227240 A1 (KHOSROPOUR ET AL) 11 DECEMBER 2003 (11.12.2003), page 1, [0011].	1-24
A	US 5,789,702 A (PERELLA) 04 AUGUST 1998 (04.08.1998), see entire document.	1-24
A	US 4,143,902 A (JOHNSTONE) 13 MARCH 1979 (13.03.1979), see entire document.	1-24



Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.



See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

12 July 2004 (12.07.2004)

Date of mailing of the international search report

26 APR 2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/US

Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Authorized officer

Lanna Mai

Telephone No. (703) 308-2168

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:
DANIEL M. GURFINKEL
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120 S. RIVERSIDE PLAZA
22ND FLOOR
CHICAGO, IL 60606

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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 9191-91160		Date of mailing (day/month/year) 26 APR 2005
International application No. PCT/US04/00639		International filing date (day/month/year) 12 January 2004 (12.01.2004)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC(7): F16B 12/00 and US Cl.: 312/111		Priority date (day/month/year) 10 January 2003 (10.01.2003)
Applicant SIMON, LEE		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

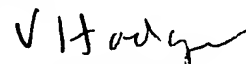
2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/ US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer Lanna Mai  Telephone No. (703) 308-2168
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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/US04/00639

Box No. I Basis of this opinion

1. With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

☐ a sequence listing

☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

☐ in written format

☐ in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

☐ contained in international application as filed.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/US04/00639

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43 bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-24</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-24</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-24</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

Claims 1-24 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over USP 5,572,984 to Alden et al in view of USP 3,858,091 to Wilkinson.

Alden et al discloses a modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle comprising all the elements recited in the above listed claims including a plurality of interchangeable appliance units, such as shown in Fig 3, a frame divided into areas to removably held an appliance unit in each area. The different being that Alden et al does not disclose at least one connector for connecting the appliance units to utilities as needed.

Wilkinson discloses a modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle comprising an appliance unit, a frame for holding an appliance unit, at least one connector 82 for connecting the appliance unit to utilities as needed in order to increase the versatility of the receptacle. Therefore, it would have been obvious to modify the structure of Alden et al by providing the modular reconfigurable appliance receptacle with at least one connector for connecting the appliance unit to utilities as needed in order to increase the versatility of the receptacle, as taught by Wilkinson, since both teach alternate conventional reconfigurable appliance receptacle structure, used for the same intended purpose, thereby providing structure as claimed.

Claims 1-24 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(4), and thus claims 1-24 meet industrial applicability because the subject matter claimed can be made or used in industry.